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THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Remarks on the News of a Treaty of Peace. Commines's *Account how the* French *came always to out-wit the* Engliſh *by Treaties, tho' worſted by their Arms. The hopeful Proſpect we have of its being otherwiſe now.*

From Wednesday, March 30. to Saturday, April 2. 1709.

Country-m. YOU have often been asking me News concerning the Peace, Maſter; I fancy now we ſhall have one; for I hear there has been a ſecond Conference betwixt thoſe the *French* King has ſent to the *Netherlands* to treat about it, and ſome of the *Dutch* Deputies. Beſides, there's a mighty Talk, that the *French* King offers to reſtore *Spain*, the *Weſt Indies*, and the *Netherlands*. Pray let me have your Opinion of the Matter.

Obſ. Then, if your Advice be good, *Roger*, it would ſeem the *French* King has ſtill Hopes of carrying off part of the *Spaniſh* Dominions, and part of the Empire; for you tell me nothing of his offering to quit his Pretenſions to *Sicily* and *Naples*, *Alſace*, *Burgundy*, and *Strasburgh*.

Country-m. I hear nothing of that indeed, Maſter, but I find ſome People are mightily for a Partition, rather than not make an End of the War.

Obſ. If there muſt be a Partition, *Roger*, I wiſh we may have better Succeſs with it, than we had with the laſt. We all remember how much 'twas reſented by our Houſe of Commons, that the *Spaniards* made uſe of it as an Argument to juſtify their throwing themſelves and their whole Monarchy into the Arms of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, rather than ſuffer their Dominions to be diſmember'd: And ſince the Queen, Lords, and Commons, have declar'd ſo frequently, that they will liſten to nothing leſs than the giving up of the whole *Spaniſh* Monarchy, I preſume that whenever we ſhall think fit to ſend Plenipotentiaries, they will take Care how they agree to leſs. For my own part, conſidering the preſent Circumſtances of *Lewis* the XIV. and the Confederates, I ſhould think he ought to be allow'd no other Trophy for all his unjuſt Conqueſts, but ſuch as the Town of *Neuſtadt* in *Auſtria* once allow'd the *Turks*.

Country-m. What was that, Maſter?

Obſ. Why, *Roger*, tho' it be but a ſmall Town, it is very ſtrong by Nature and Art, and the *Turks* having attack'd it with the Main of their Army a conſiderable Time, and finding they could not carry it, they offer'd to retire, if the Town would give them any Thing of a falſe Trophy to carry back with them to *Conſtantinople*; and the Governor accordingly ſent them out a Whipping-poſt.

Country-m. Upon my honeſt Country Word, Maſter, I think you are in the Right; *Lewis* the XIV. deſerves no other Treatment; 'twere Pity he ſhould reap any Thing elſe but Repentance for his Tyranny, Perjury, and inſatiable Ambition. I am ſure Juſtice would allow him no other Reward, but that of *Agag*, that as he has been the Occaſion of hewing ſo many Millions of Men in Pieces, he ſhould be hewn in Peices himſelf. But here's a Letter for you, Maſter; pray read it.

Obſ. Read it your ſelf, *Roger*; I hope you are not grown weary of being my Clerk.

Country-m. No, that I an't, Maſter; 'tis from a Gentlemen, who adviſes you to read *Philip de Commines*, and ſome other Books on the preſent Occaſion; which he thinks may furniſh you with proper Thoughts on the Subject, ſince he is perſwaded you deſign the publick Welfare.

Obſ. I am oblig'd to that worthy Perſon, *Roger*, for this and other Hints he has been pleas'd to ſend me. I have the *Bruſſels* Edition of that renown'd Author in 1706, *Roger*, and looking upon it t'other Day, I caſt my Eye upon ſome unlucky Paſſages, which griev'd me to the Heart.

Country-m. Pray tell me what they are, Maſter, that I may ſhare with you; for that may perhaps give you ſome Eaſe.

Obſ. The firſt Paſſage, *Roger*, is thus, Lib. 3. *pag.* 179. 'That there was never any Treaty betwixt 'the *French* and *Engliſh*, but they always out-wit-'ted us: Upon which ſome of our Country-men 'told *Commines* himſelf, that 'twas a common Say-'ing in *England*, That in all, or at leaſt moſt Bat-'tels with the *French*, they obtain'd the Victory, 'but in all Treaties the *Engliſh* came off with the 'Loſs. And I think in the very laſt we made with them at *Ryſwick*, we had no Reaſon to boaſt of our Gain.

Country-m. That ſtabs poor *Roger* to the Heart, Maſter: I always thought we had as much Wit and Wiſdom too as the *French*, tho' we could not vie with them for making Legs, and cutting of Capers; but I am ſorry to hear ſuch a Character of our Nation from ſo great an Author.

Obſ. And well you may, *Roger*; but for your Comfort, he does us Juſtice in Part, and ſays, That he himſelf, in treating with us, found by Experience, there were People in *England* as fit to manage great Treaties, as any in the World.

Country-m. How came it to paſs then, that the *French* always out-witted us, Maſter? I hope we did not pick out Blockheads to treat with them.

Obſ. Not ſo neither, *Roger*; but the *French* found a Way to make thoſe able Men deaf and blind, and to ſwear, that they would neither hear nor ſee, tho' ſome of both our Houſes of Parliament had their Eyes wide open.

Country-m. I an't for Parables, Maſter: Pray ſpeak plain *Engliſh*, that I may underſtand you.

Obſ. Ben't in a Paſſion, *Roger*: *Commines* ſhall explain it himſelf to your Country Capacity. He tells us, Book 6. Chap. 2. that *Lewis* the XI. had much the better of our *Edward* the IV. for Senſe, tho' he was a brave Prince, and had won many Battels; but he could not trouble his Head with thinking much; therefore the *French* King deluded him with Ambaſſies, Preſents, and good Words, and brib'd all thoſe in Power about him. This he thought a much better Way, than to hazard other Battels, like that of *Agincourt*, where moſt of the *French* Nobility and veterane Troops were either kill'd or taken; therefore he gave the King a Penſion of 50000 Crowns, (a vaſt Sum in thoſe Days) and he ſent People to *England*, who brib'd the Chancellor, the Maſter of the Horſe, and the Lord High Chamberlain, a Man of great Senſe, who had much Influence on his Maſter. In ſhort, *Roger*, he brib'd every Body that he thought could do him Service, even ſuch as came to him with ſham Commiſſions, whoſe Mouths he always ſtopt with Preſents and large Promiſes, tho' ſeveral of them knew, that he did this merely to gain Time; but they diſſembl'd, becauſe of their Bribes.

Country-m. But how could that be, Maſter, ſince you ſay ſome of both Houſes of Parliament had their Eyes open? Did not they ſee through this?

Obſ.

Obſ. *Commines* ſhall anſwer you again, *Roger*: He ſays his Maſter knew very well, that the *Engliſh*, both Lords, Commons, and Church-men, were always inclin'd to a War with *France*, on the Account of their ancient Quarrels, and becauſe of their great Victories, and the Profit they receiv'd by the Ranſoms they had for the *French* Princes and Nobles they took in the War; and that the Members of both Houſes, in which there were many wiſe Men, who had no Penſions, and the Body of the Nation was for War, and aſſiſting the Dutcheſs of *Burgundy*, one of the Predeceſſors of the preſent Houſe of *Auſtria*, againſt *France* effectually; yet *Lewis* the XI. ſo ply'd the Courtiers with his Bribes, that he prevented it, tho' the Nation was ſenſible that the *French* King play'd the Cheat with them at the ſame Time, contrary to his ſolemn Oaths and Treaties, by promiſing them all the Security they could deſire: But having gain'd the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Admiral, the Maſter of the Horſe, the Chancellor, and many other Courtiers, he did not value what Noiſe was made in Parliament.

Country-m. Why but, Maſter, could not the Parliament find out that Bribery, and prevent the Conſequences of it?

Obſ. I have told you already, *Roger*, from *Commines*, that many of the Parliament were brib'd too, and you need not doubt, but with the Influence of the Great Courtiers, they could carry every Thing as they pleas'd. Beſides, ſome of theſe Courtiers were ſo cunning, that it was not poſſible to diſcover their Bribery, except the *French* King had diſcover'd it himſelf, particularly the Lord High Chamberlain; for when the Maſter of the *French* King's Houſehold came to *London* to pay him and the other Courtiers their Penſions, he refus'd to give the Monſieur an Acquittance, tho' he preſs'd earneſtly for it, leſt his Maſter ſhould think he had kept part to himſelf; but the Lord Chamberlain anſwer'd, that tho' he knew the Demand to be reaſonable, if he had a Mind to give him the Money, he muſt put it into his Sleeve, without Witneſs or Acquittance; for he would never have it to be ſaid, that the Lord High Chamberlain of *England* was a Penſioner to the King of *France*, or that any of his Acquittances ſhould be found in his Chamber of Accompts. The *French* King was very angry at firſt, that he ſhould not have had an Acquittance; but afterwards valu'd the Lord Chamberlain above all the *Engliſh* Miniſters, and paid him his Penſion without asking a Receipt any more.

Country-m. A ſad Story indeed, Maſter. I perceive we have too frequently had *Engliſh* Foxes in Fee with *French* Wolves. Pray God there may never be more ſuch. But I wonder that brave and ſucceſsful Prince *Edward* the IV. ſhould have been ſo blind, as not to ſee his own Intereſt, and that of the Nation.

Obſ. You have heard from *Commines* before, *Roger*, that our King was not over-ſtock'd with Senſe, tho' he had wonderful Succeſs, and that he was under the Chamberlain's Influence. He adds, that tho' Part of his Council told him, That his Conduct in this Matter was prejudicial to the Kingdom, it ſignify'd nothing; for he and the brib'd Courtiers anſwer'd, That the *French* King promis'd him all the Security he could demand. Nor are you to wonder at this, *Roger*; for when Princes are ſo weak as *Commines* tells us in his 8th Book, p. 598. *Charles* the VIII. of *France* was, as to give themſelves up to their chief Miniſters; tho' the King was willing to have done what was right, he was afraid to diſpleaſe thoſe whom he had rais'd, eſpecially ſuch as had the Management of his Treaſury, *viz.* the Cardinal of *St. Malo*, with his Brethren and Kindred; upon which *Commines* makes this judicious Reflexion, That this Inſtance may ſerve for a Warning to Princes, to take Care of the Management of their own Affairs, at leaſt ſometimes, and to keep their Miniſtry in an Equality; for if there be one ſo great as to be fear'd by the reſt, he is King and Lord in Effect, while the King is ill ſerv'd, as *Charles* the VIII. was by his Governors, who did their own Buſineſs very well, but did his very ill, which made him to be little eſteem'd.

Country-m. How happy are we then, Maſter, ſince our Queen is ſo gracious and wiſe as to take the Advice of her Great Council the Parliament, and declare her Concurrence with them in their Addreſs, as to the Preliminaries of Peace. This puts it out of the Power of any Body's agreeing to leſs on our Part, but at their Peril; and ſince our *Gazette* of *Thurſday* laſt gives us an Account, that the *French* Court is in great Diſtreſs, by Reaſon of the Clamours of the People for Want of Money, that their publick Credit is entirely ruin'd, and their Troops in ſeveral Places have muting'd. Heaven ſeems to declare its Concurrence with our Queen and Parliament in their Demands, and gives us a Proſpect of having ſuch a Peace, if duly inſiſted on by all the Confederates, as may ſecure the Liberty of *Europe* in general, with that of *Great Britain*, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion in particular.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereupon. By J. Simpſon, Practitioner in Phyſick. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6 d. together 3 s. 6 d. Sold by R. Gooſling, at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the Black Bell in Cornhill, H. Ribotteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.

☞ Quackery unmask'd: or, Reflections on the 6th Edition of Mr. Marten's Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, and its Appendix; and the Pamphlet call'd, The charitable Surgeon, &c. containing a full and plain Detection and Refutation of ſome groſs Errors, &c. of thoſe Authors: Interſpers'd with many new and uſeful Obſervations concerning the Venereal Diſeaſe, and the Method and Medicines proper for its ſpeedy, ſafe, and effectual Curation. Proper Remarks on Mr. Marten's admirable Medicine, and his infallible Preſervative. A full and true Account of Quacks, and their Method of Practice. An Account of ſome excellent Medicines, &c. Highly neceſſary to be read by all Venereal Patients, who would prevent their own Ruin; and by all Phyſicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, who are here vindicated from Mr. Marten's Aſperſions. By J. Spinke, licens'd Practitioner in Phyſick and Surgery. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Woodward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, B. Baker in Weſtminſter-hall, and the Author at the Golden Ball between the Sun and Caſtle Taverns in Honey-lane Market, Cheapſide. Price 1 s.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-bellied Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hind and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

☞ The extraordinary Succeſs of Mr. William Croſſe, Profeſſor of Phyſick and Oculiſt, in curing Diſtempers of the Eyes, frequently recommends him to the Aſſiſtance of ſeveral Perſons afflicted with the moſt difficult Diſeaſes of the ſame, who are, from Time to Time, by his Preſcriptions, perfectly recover'd, after having ineffectually apply'd themſelves to others, as is evident by Certificates given under their Hands; Variety of which may be ſeen at his Houſe a-gainſt Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, where he is conſtantly to be adviſ'd with. ☞ There is lately publiſh'd by the ſaid Mr. Croſſe, A brief Treatiſe of the Eyes, in which not only the Structure of the ſame is Anatomically demonſtrated, but the Diſtempers (which for the moſt part are incident thereto) are likewiſe diſtinctly deſcrib'd. To which is added, ſome particular Directions for preſerving the Sight, &c. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price bound 1 s.

☞ Eliz. Tutchin, Widow of the late John Tutchin, who formerly kept a Boarding-ſchool at Newington-Green and Shacklewell, now keeps a School near the Nags-head at Highgate; where is good Accommodation for Lodgers.

LONDON, Printed for the Uſe of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.